

# Richmond Community Schools

35276 Division \* Richmond, Michigan 48062 \* (586) 727-3565 \* [www.richmond.k12.mi.us](http://www.richmond.k12.mi.us)

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Deborah Michon, President  
Angela Pacitto, Vice President  
Sherri Zube, Secretary  
Danielle Sutton, Treasurer  
Kyle Simmons, Trustee  
Margaret Teltow, Trustee  
OPEN, Trustee

Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.  
Superintendent

## BOARD OF EDUCATION **REGULAR** MEETING MINUTES

**7:00PM ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022, IN THE MEDIA CENTER AT RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL  
(35320 Division, Richmond, Michigan 48062)**

*This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in Agenda Item 10.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board member Michon called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education called to order at 7:00 PM. Ms. Michon made an announcement apologizing to Brandon Day for comments made at previous board meetings by Board members. She stated that the Board appreciates all that Mr. Day does for the students of Richmond.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of Allegiance recited by Board of Education, Superintendent, Central Office, and audience.

**3. MISSION STATEMENT**

Mission statement read by Board member Zube.

**4. ROLL CALL**

Board member Zube took roll call: Deborah Michon – Present, Angela Pacitto – Absent with Notice, Kyle Simmons – Present, Danielle Sutton – Present, Margaret Teltow – Present, and Sherri Zube – Present.

5 – 0 Quorum of the Board

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Board member Teltow to approve the agenda as presented. Support by Board member Sutton.

Discussion: None

All in Favor: 5. Opposed: 0. Motion passed.

### **Non-Discrimination Statement**

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**6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Board member Teltow to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the attached documentation. Support by Board member .

Discussion: Superintendent Walmsley recognized the following:

Personnel Report:

Resignations and Retirements: Bridgitte Thompson (Food Service).

Termination: None.

Lay-off / Non-renewal of Contract: None.

New Hires: Maire Cracchiolo (Food Service).

Notice of Appointments (Previously Hired by the Board): None.

Superintendent Walmsley noted that a Board member stated that the Board has not received Schedule B Academic assignments. The *Personnel Report* now has them listed.

Superintendent Walmsley stated there were no corrections to the February 14, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes.

All in Favor: 5. Opposed: 0. Motion passed.

**7. CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER MATERIALS EXEMPT FROM DISCUSSION OR DISCLOSURE BY STATE OR FEDERAL STATUTE PURSUANT TO SECTION 8(H) OF THE MICHIGAN OPEN MEETINGS ACT**

Pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, Board member Zube moved that the Board of Education go into Closed Session to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute. Support by Board member Sutton.

Discussion: None

Board member Michon took roll call: Deborah Michon – Yes, Kyle Simmons – Yes, Danielle Sutton – Yes, Margaret Teltow – Yes, and Sherri Zube – Yes.

All in Favor: 5. Opposed: 0. Motion passed.

Closed Session Started: 7:04 PM

Closed Session Ended: 7:28 PM

**8. BOND UPDATE**

Superintendent Walmsley provided an update on bond projects throughout the district, which included:

On Thursday, February 23, 2022, the district held a pre-bid walkthrough for the upcoming summer site and paving projects. This work will include the entrance off 32 Mile, by the City of Richmond library, the parking lot behind the high school auditorium, the high school student parking lot, the road between the high school and athletic complex, and the new parking lot

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just east of the high school auxiliary gymnasium and fitness center. The new middle school dumpsters will also be relocated in a brick enclosure on the west side of the paved area behind the middle school.

Work is scheduled to begin May 1 where the parking lot behind the auditorium will be removed and prepped for asphalt. The other site and road work will not begin until after school is out for the summer.

The remaining site and road projects will be completed during the summer 2023, which will include the road along the west side of the property, the road in front of the middle school which will include a new bus lane, the parking lot to the east of the middle school gymnasium, the paved area behind the middle school, and the new parking lot, approximately 10 cars, by the varsity baseball field.

Work will begin on the new Varsity Softball field this week. If you travel behind the middle school, construction fencing has already been installed. Work will begin on the existing Varsity Baseball Field, Freshman, and Junior Varsity Baseball Field, and what will be the new Junior Varsity Softball field around June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, Superintendent Walmsley notified the Board that he will be utilizing General Fund operations budget to cover the cost of irrigation to the varsity softball field, as the varsity baseball field currently has irrigation.

## **9. PRESENTATION**

### **A. Custodial Services**

Brian Walmsley, Superintendent, and Tammie Schadd, Director of Business and Management Services, will present an overview of the district's current custodial services contract and a recommendation to bring custodial services in-house.

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following members of the public spoke:

- Ashley Marcial discussed her concerns with the speech program eLuma. She is concerned how the data collected would be stored.
- Kelley Oldani discussed her concerns with eLuma and the data that is going to be collected. Her concerns lie with the mental health aspect of the service.
- Amy Stier addressed the board with her concerns with the eLuma program.

## **11. SUPERINTENDENT AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Superintendent Walmsley provided an update on district and legislative issues.

### **Facemask on School Buses**

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Effective immediately, wearing a facemask on a school bus is no longer required, based on the CDC rules released last Friday. Individuals may still choose to wear a facemask.

Beginning March 1, 2022, classrooms and lunchrooms will return to pre-COVID-19 operations. Social distancing requirements, where it was possible, will be removed and building and classroom visitors may return as we did pre-COVID-19.

### **Legislative News**

Last week in Lansing the biggest story was the House's multi-billion-dollar tax proposal. The details were unveiled Thursday.

Additionally, we heard some great news this week regarding School Aid Revenues. You might recall Michigan launched internet gaming in January 2021. Now a year after that decision, Representatives from the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) said this week that internet gaming revenue significantly exceeded initial expectations for the 2021-22 fiscal year and is anticipated to reach 10 times the revenues originally projected in 2022-23. Specifically, over the last year, internet gaming produced \$87.1 million for the School Aid Fund (SAF), early projections were \$8.62 million. For 2022-23, the MGCB is projecting \$169 million for the SAF.

The Senate Education Committee met on three bills addressing very different topics.

The first was SB 107 sponsored by Sen. Mike MacDonald, legislation regarding the dangers of opioid abuse. The committee adopted a substitute version of SB 107 last Tuesday that made significant changes to the introduced version of the bill. In the bills' current form, MDE would be required to develop or adopt and make available two to three model instructional videos on this topic. The previous version only required one video. Additionally, the substitute removed the requirement that this video be implemented in grade 9 curriculum. The bill as revised to now states that *schools are encouraged to offer the video in their grade 9 curriculum.*

The committee dedicated the majority of their time discussing SB 726, legislation sponsored by Sen. Dale Zorn (R-Ida). The bill would amend the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement Act to allow a retiree to be reemployed as a substitute teacher after a two-month waiting period without any effects on their retirement benefits. As you know, the current waiting period is a full year. The committee had several speakers testify on the teacher shortage and teacher pipeline. Their testimony also focused on additional changes that the legislature needs to make in revising the stipulations for retirees to return to the classroom.

Additionally, the committee heard testimony from Rep. Greg VanWoerkom (R-Norton Shores) on his legislation that would modify the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements to allow computer coding to qualify as a language other than English. Discussion on HB 4326 included some consideration for the different types of coding that exist, as well as questions regarding what teacher certification would be qualified to teach this course. MASA supports HB 4326.

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The House Appropriations and Tax committees met jointly and voted out HB 5838, a \$1.7 billion tax cut proposal. The legislation would reduce Michigan's income tax rate from its current 4.25% to 3.9% and would lower the age of being able to claim an additional exemption to 62. Also voted on was HB 5054, which would use \$1.5 billion from GF the General Fund surplus towards local government and State police retirement systems. A House Fiscal Agency analysis said if the Republican plan were to become law, the state would either need to cut \$1.8 billion in spending or return \$1.8 billion in federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund monies to the federal government. These bills are expected to come up for a vote in the full House as early as this week. We will continue to monitor these bills and other pieces of legislation that could impact the School Aid Fund, as tax cut fever continues unabated in Lansing.

**Freedom of Information Acts Updates, since Mr. Thiel return as Director of Human Resources:**

On 11/12/2021 Jamie Morgan requested: I would like all rules, documents, notes, and communications regarding the entire hiring process of the head football coach in 2021. Including conversations that occurred on personal devices regarding the work-related public hiring including the entirety for 2021 (before, during, and after). Including rules and communication regarding contract renewal. Filled on 12/1/21

On 11/22/2021 Brandon Day requested: All electronic communication emails and text messages on personal or district devices and servers that contains the name "Brandon Day" or refers to Brandon Day for the period 8/1/21 to 11/10/21. Filled 12/15/202.

On 11/23/2021 Traci Bartell requested: I request all electronic communication between or among Board of Education members, such as emails or text messages, on personal and school district devices and servers, regarding or referencing district employee Brandon Day and/or his employee contract or position with Richmond Community Schools from August 30, 2021, forward [November 23, 2021]. No items are to be deleted. Filled 12/16/21

On 11/23/2021 Traci Bartell requested: I request all electronic communication between or among Board of Education members, such as emails or text messages, on personal and school district devices and servers, regarding or referencing district employee Brian Walmsley and/or his employee contract or position with Richmond Community Schools from January 1, 2021, forward [November 23, 2021]. No items are to be deleted. Filled 12/16/21

On 1/18/2022 Jamie Morgan requested: Personnel files for anyone who received or was involved (candidate) with the creation of the recommendation for hiring a new football coach that included ageist language. Any publicly available digital communication via any method that discusses pay or splitting of pay between individuals involved with the interview process before, during or after the hire. Including but not limited to football. Details on any school or bond funds or resources used for creation of the new field entrance arch, dedicated last year. Details of any school funds or agreements for vehicles used for athletic and personal use.#2 but for staffing as well. Filled 2/8/2022

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On 1/28/2022 Jamie Morgan requested: All communication (including but not limited to email, paper, texts) regarding the transfer of a student from Almont to Richmond during the current school year who participated in wrestling. Including all paperwork and forms filed with the MHSAA for this student. I would also like any transfer paperwork. Filled 2/17/22

On 1/30/2022 Jamie Morgan requested: I was informed that forms were created, possibly because of a previous FOIA request, that would allow people to sign off stating that they understood their obligation to provide certain public information contained on/in personal devices and emails. I would like the completed forms. Due 2/18/22

On 2/7/2022 Jamie Morgan requested: Any communication, digital, written, texts that pertains to the first "open Gym" football practice. A list of participants at said practice. Any videos and any form of communication regarding the video of the practice. I would also like any communication or documentation regarding the role the team's "lead Recruiter" serves per its website and the details and communication regarding how that individual brought in "over 850k in school of choice money" as discussed in the 11/22/21 board meeting. This request was canceled by Mr. Morgan on 2/7/22

On 2/15/2022 Tim Ducharme requested: I would like a copy of the current appraisal for the year 2021 on Superintendent, Brian Walmsley, Richmond Community Schools, Richmond, Michigan. Please mail the information to the aforementioned address. Filled 2/20/22.

#### **Will L. Lee Elementary School**

- Teachers and students are looking forward to having Guest Readers the month of March for March is reading month
- Friday, February 25 the PBIS assembly was held. The moral focus was on leadership.
- Spelling Bee was also held on Friday, February 25. Emma Gibson took 1<sup>st</sup> and McKenna Miron was Runner-up
- Preschool Round-up is this Wednesday, March 2 and Kindergarten round up is on Thursday, March 3.

#### **Richmond Middle School**

Winter sports has ended  
March is reading month calendar set  
Kindness activities month of February  
Band Pre-festival

#### **Richmond High School**

March is Reading month begins tomorrow. Reading passage will be read during announcements for prizes every day  
College visits are planned with Lake Superior on March 2 and Paul Mitchell on March 3

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Congratulations to the Girl Bowling who won Regionals and will move on to States. Boys can in second and are moving on to States.

Congratulations to the Competitive Cheer who won Regionals this past Saturday and are also moving on to States.

Just a reminder, on March 3, RHS is conducting a district-wide fundraiser for the Oxford community. All proceeds from the event will be going to the Oxford community.

- Chef Garand and her culinary students will be conducting a bake sale that night during the basketball games vs. Armada.
- Mrs. Schack is also working in conjunction with the band from Armada to play the Oxford fight song during halftime of the game.
- Ms. Clore and the choir students will be singing the national anthem before the game.
- Mrs. Smallwood and Dr. Ladd are working with our student government and Armada's student government to create some rivalry competitions between the schools. One of the ways is a Penny War. The school that raises the most money, the other school's principal must wear the mascot of the winning school.

### **Teacher of the Year**

Congratulations to the 2021-22 Teacher of the Year announced today:

Alanna Constance – Elementary Teacher-of-the-Year

Molly Schack – Middle School Teacher-of-the-Year

Aimee Smallwood – High School Teacher-of-the-Year

These three individuals will now go on to compete at the County level for County Teacher-of-the-Year.

### **Common Calendar**

Per State law, the intermediate school district of each county establishes a "common calendar" for all district within that county to follow. The common calendar defines the minimum days off for breaks and may include other non-school days, such as MLK, Election Day, etc. In Macomb County, the "common calendar" primarily defines the holiday break in December/January, Winter Break in February, and Spring Break which has been traditionally the 1<sup>st</sup> full week in April as well as recommends days off for students that could be used as professional development days. This "common calendar" is used when negotiating our district calendar.

The MISD has reviewed the timing of spring break as provided in the Macomb County Public Schools Common Calendar, in light of student testing requirements, staff schedules, and other concerns. To this end the MISD has surveyed Macomb County School Superintendents, received input from representatives of the teachers' unions throughout Macomb County, surveyed neighboring counties calendars, and received input from parents. Adjacent and neighboring counties have scheduled spring

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break beginning on the last Monday in March include Wayne County, Oakland County, St. Clair County, Genesee County, Washtenaw County, and Lapeer County Currently, whereas Macomb County's spring break begins the first full week in April.

After working through the process, the MISD determined that it would be appropriate to align the Macomb County Common Calendar with neighboring counties and move spring break to begin on the last Monday in March. The MISD Board of Education voted and approved the spring break move to occur in the 2023-24 school year. I have already had preliminary conversations with the REA leadership, and we have verbally agreed on a calendar. We will be signing a revised 2023-24 school calendar soon.

Finally, just a reminder to the Board what has been contractually agreed to, in that *The Board, individually and collectively, shall refer promptly all criticisms, complaints and suggestions called to its attention to the Superintendent for study and recommendation if the individual Board members deem referral to be warranted based upon the nature of the complaints, criticisms, and suggestions.*

## 12. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board member Michon stated she cannot make the budget meeting at the MISD. Ms. Sutton said that she will be attending the MISD budget meeting on April 21, 2022, at 5:30pm as the Treasurer.

Board member Teltow thanked Ms. Michon for her comments at the beginning of the meeting apologizing to Mr. Day.

## 13. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Approval of 2022-23 Middle School and High School Course Catalog

Board member Teltow motioned to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the 2022-23 Middle School and High School Course Catalog as presented and discussed at the February 14, 2022, Board of Education meeting. Support by Board member Simmons.

Discussion: None

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: 0. Motion passed.

### B. Approval of FY2022 General Fund Budget – Amendment #2

Board member Teltow motioned to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve FY 2022 Budget Amendment #2 as presented at the February 14, 2022, Board of Education meeting and outlined in the attached resolution. Support by Board member Simmons.

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: 5, Opposed: 0. Motion passed.

### C. Approval of Contract with eLuma

Board member Teltow motioned to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve a contract with eLuma for a total not to exceed \$46,193.66 for which funding from the FY2022

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General Fund budget is authorized as presented in the attached documentation. Support by Board member Simmons .

Discussion: Board member Sutton stated she is disappointed that this is the route that the district is going. Board member Sutton said were better off saving our money because virtual speech therapy is garbage. Board member Sutton would like an option to waive her student from the requirement.

Board member Teltow stated she disagrees completely; we are using this service to assist students. Mr. Walmsley stated that we have tried to require a SLP and there is no one out there. He stated the district is out of compliance with IEP requirements.

Board member Zube stated that she understands Board member Suttons concerns, but also understands it is the only option the district must be compliant with the law.

Roll Call: 4, Opposed: 1. Motion passed.

**14. CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSES OF NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 8(C) OF THE MICHIGAN OPEN MEETINGS ACT**

Pursuant to Section 8(c) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, Board member Simmons motioned that the Board of Education go into Closed Session for the purposes of negotiations. Support by Board member Teltow.

Discussion: None.

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: 0. Motion passed.

Closed Session Started: 8:47PM

Closed Session Ended: 9:43PM

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Board member Michon adjourned the meeting at 9:43PM.

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